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ACTS TO BARE ALL OSWALD PROBE RECORDS

BY WILLARD EDWARDS
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

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Washington, Feb. 18—Legislation was introduced in Congress today to forbid the suppression of any evidence gathered by the special commission investigating the Kennedy assassination.

Bipartisan support was assured for a bill sponsored by Rep. John Bell Williams [D. Miss.] which would compel public disclosure of all testimony taken and documentary exhibits gathered by the commission.

Rep. August E. Johansen [R., Mich.] told the House last week that Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission, imperiled public confidence in the inquiry by suggesting that the commission might have to put a "top secret" label on some of the evidence for many years. He urged other commission members to repudiate Warren's suggestion.

Finds Unfavorable Reaction

Williams said there was "widespread, unfavorable public reaction" to Warren's statement to newspapermen that some of the evidence might not be released "in my lifetime or yours."

"Enactment of legislation to compel public disclosure of all the evidence will tend to dispel prevailing rumors, suspicions, charges and counter-charges," Williams said. "I think it is necessary to the objectives of the commisssion to have the confidence of the public.

"My proposal would help in this respect. The bill would require disclosure at the time the commission completes its work. Therefore, it will in no way hamper or hinder investigative processes."

Rumors Sweep Capital

Conflicting rumors, suspicions, charges, and counter-charges, to which Williams referred, swept Washington after Warren hinted that the whole story about the assassination might not be told for many years. They were not dissipated by his later assertion that he knew of no evidence, gathered thus far, which could not be made public.

Experts in intelligence work said the suggestion gave some credence to theories that Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin, was on the payroll of the Central Intelligence agency or in some manner linked to United States government agencies as a "double agent," of both this country and the Soviet Union or the Fidel Castro government of Cuba.

Rap Leisurely Approach

The four members of Congress who serve on the commission have criticized the staff's leisurely approach to digesting the piles of documentary material which have accumulated. This includes the bulky report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which once was scheduled for release last December.

The Williams proposal is in the form of an amendment to the resolution which created the commission. It provides that a record shall be kept of the commission proceedings, all of which have taken place behind closed doors, and a literal transcript kept of the testimony of all witnesses.

This record, plus all documentary evidence relating to the assassination, would be open to public inspection when the commission completes its work and presents its findings and conclusions.

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